

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 211398  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EUR:WHLUERS:RAH  
APPROVED BY EUR:WHLUERS  
H:JBATWOOD  
S/MS:MSHULMAN  
S/S:SGOLDSMITH  
S/S:SGOLDSMITH

-----052550 190256Z /70

P 190136Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211398

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: CODEL RIBICOFF/BELLMON

REF: MOSCOW 19304

1. DURING LUNCH ON AUGUST 17, LUERS DISCUSSED CODEL RIBICOFF WITH CHARGE VASEV AND MINISTER COUNSELOR BESSMERTNYKH. LUERS GAVE THEM THE PLANNED DATES OF THE TRIP, PROPOSED CITIES, AND LIST OF SENATORS. VASEV WAS UNCHARACTERISTICALLY ENTHUSIASTIC. HE ASSURED LUERS THAT CODEL WOULD BE RECEIVED WELL AND THAT SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD TRY TO ACCOMMODATE VIRTUALLY ALL OF THE SENATORS' WISHES.

2. ON SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE ITINERARY AND PROGRAM, VASEV  
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REPLIED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE VISIT OUT OF COURTESY SHOULD BEGIN IN MOSCOW ("RUSSIANS ENTER BY THE FRONT DOOR") IF ONLY FOR ONE DAY TO GO OVER THE ITINERARY. LUERS SAID IN THAT CASE PROBABLY THE SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS WOULD BE HELD AT THE BEGINNING IN MOSCOW RATHER THAN BACK-TRACK. (IN A LATER CONVERSATION

RIBICOFF AGREED WITH LUERS THAT THE TRIP SHOULD BEGIN IN MOSCOW.)

(B) VASEV SAID HE THOUGHT THE PROPOSED ITINERARIES AND DATES WERE ACCEPTABLE IN PRINCIPLE.

(C) ON HOSPITALITY VISITS TO PRIVATE HOUSES, VASEV SAID THAT MANY OF THE DEPUTIES DO NOT HAVE ADEQUATE FACILITIES IN MOSCOW BUT ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE MADE FOR INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS COMPARABLE TO THOSE THAT WERE SO SUCCESSFUL DURING THE PONOMAREV VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

(D) VASEV ASSURED LUERS THAT THE CODEL WOULD MEET THE SENIOR OFFICIALS IN THE CITIES VISITED. HE SPECIFICALLY AGREED THAT THEY WOULD MEET ROMANOV IN LENINGRAD AND COMPARABLE PARTY FIGURES ELSEWHERE.

(E) VASEV SAID THE IDEA OF INCLUDING WIVES WAS UNORTHODOX BUT THE SOVIETS WOULD ACCOMMODATE WITH TEAS WHILE THE SENATORS WERE MEETING. LUERS STRESSED THAT WAS NOT QUITE WHAT THE SENATORS HAD IN MIND. VASEV SAID THAT IN THE SOVIET UNION WIVES ARE ACCORDED POSITIONS IN SOCIETY ON THEIR OWN MERITS NOT AS SPOUSES OF IMPORTANT INDIVIDUALS. AFTER SOME SPARRING ON THAT POINT, VASEV SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER MANY OF THE MEN INVOLVED FROM THE SOVIET SIDE HAD BRIGHT ENOUGH WIVES. BUT HE AGREED EFFORTS COULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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MADE TO INCLUDE THE WIVES IN SUBSTANTIVE MEETINGS AND HE UNDERTOOK TO LOOK INTO THIS QUESTION.

3. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THE AGENDA OR SUBSTANCE OF THE TALKS WHICH WILL COME LATER ONCE WE WORK OUT THE ITINERARY. IN A SUBSEQUENT TALK, SENATOR RIBICOFF TOLD LUERS HE WONDERED WHETHER THE GROUP SHOULD GO TO KIEV IN VIEW OF THE PRESENCE OF THE CONSULATE THERE. HE ALSO WANTED TO CONSIDER AN OPTION WITHOUT LENINGRAD. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS WILL BE WORKING WITH THE SENATORS' STAFF IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO HAMMER OUT AN ITINERARY. ONCE WE WORK OUT SENATORS' WISHES ON ITINERARY AND GET AGREEMENT ON THE EMBASSY'S HELPFUL PROPOSALS IN REFTTEL, WE AGREE THAT THE BASIC PLANNING SHOULD BE DONE BY EMBASSY MOSCOW. VANCE

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PAGE 01 STATE 211398  
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY ERU/SOV:AKRAUSE

APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:MJWILKINSON

S/S-O:SVALERGA

-----098502 130208Z /64

O 130150Z SEP 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211398

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 211398 SENT ACTION MOSCOW AUG 19.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211398

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: CODEL RIBICOFF/BELLMON

REF: MOSCOW 19304

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** OREP, US, UR, (RIBICOFF, ABRAHAM A), (BELLMON, HENRY L)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014